

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2016**

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 13

AN ACT REDUCING CERTAIN PROBATE COURT FEES

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 13, An Act Reducing Certain Probate Fees.

This bill instates a cap on the maximum probate fee allowable for probate proceedings related to decedents' estates. Fees are capped at \$40,000, effective for decedents who die on or after July 1, 2016. The cap of \$40,000 would be reached at an estate value of \$8,877,000.

From 1998 to January 1, 2015, the maximum probate fee on decedents' estates was \$12,500. During the 2015 legislative session the probate fee for estates \$2 million and over was altered to \$5,615 plus 0.5% on all amounts in excess of \$2,000,000, effective January 1, 2015. This proposal limits the maximum fee payable for probate services on decedents' estates at \$40,000.

The fiscal impact to the probate court system is an estimated annual revenue loss of \$6.5 million.

I respectfully request that the committee support this bill. I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony.